



The Hal yard

A weekly newsletter for
Virginia's
Library Media Specialists
April 1, 2005

Charlie's chatter

This week's newsletter is a hodgepodge of tidbits of information that has crossed my desk this week. I hope that many of you have enjoyed your spring breaks. Maybe soon the weather will soon recognize that spring is here.

For many of you this is the calm before the storm. Soon SOL testing will be underway and then the rush of teachers to use the library will commence. Use this time to recruit new crewmembers. Use the Linking Libraries resources to plan new activities. Don't forget to include teachers and students in your discussions for purchases for next year. Invite them to help you do your spring weeding and plant seeds of ideas for ways that you can work together for the benefit of all.

Happy Sailing!

Reminders

The **AOL/Governor's Innovative Use of Technology** portfolio entries are due April 8. If you need additional information visit <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/OET/participantentryform.doc> for additional information.

The **PROPOSED computer/technology SOL** are posted at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/proposedSOL-05.pdf>. A superintendent's memo is being posted today. Please be sure to share the proposed SOL with others in your building. Comments may be sent to <mailto:95CTSOL@doe.virginia.gov>

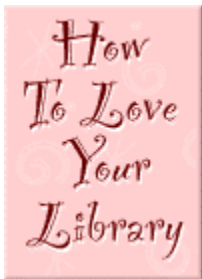


Great Quote

"First you get them to enjoy reading, and you get them laughing," he said. "Then you can start to get subversive and try to have them learn something."

Christopher Paul Curtis, author of *Bud not Buddy* and *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* was quoted as saying when he spoke at George Washington Middle School in Alexandria this week.

Something Special for National Library Week



NEW E-CARDS PROMOTE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

E-cards are among the new tools available to promote library usage and reading or to recognize library workers during National Library Week (April 10-16). Available free!

To send a free National Library Week e-card go to

<http://www.americangreetings.com/category.pd?path=59953>

2005 ALA National Library Week toolkit is available at

<http://www.ala.org/pio/nlw>

And the research says.....

POWERFUL LIBRARIES MAKE POWERFUL LEARNERS: THE ILLINOIS STUDY"

In the fall of 2003, 657 Illinois schools K-12 were studied by a team of researchers led by Keith Curry Lance to find out whether library media programs had a significant impact on students' academic progress and performance on standardized tests. The evidence produced by this study indicates that Illinois school libraries contribute measurably to the academic achievement of students and schools lacking adequate library staff, with inadequate media programs, smaller library collections and limited funding cannot contribute adequately to their students' academic success. Full report and fact-sheet are available at

<http://www.islma.org/resources.htm>



Legislative Day

Legislative Day events provide an important opportunity to educate newly elected and returning Senators and Representatives about all the terrific library programs and about issues that are important to the larger library community. Your Congressional representatives want to know about how libraries and library programs impact the lives of their constituents -- and who better to tell them about the continuing importance of libraries than a strong group of library advocates?

National Library Legislative Day events will be held in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 3 & 4, 2005. Participants in legislative day events include librarians, trustees, friends of libraries, library school faculty and students and other library advocates who speak to members of Congress about the significant contributions libraries make in their communities. Your grassroots support is crucial to the success of our legislative day events. For more information go to <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/nlld/Default2689.htm>



NCES REPORT ON FIFTY YEARS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has just released "Fifty Years of Supporting Children's Learning; A History of Public School Libraries and Federal Legislation from 1953 to 2000."

Drawn from more than 50 sources, this report presents descriptive data about public school libraries since 1953. Along with key characteristics of school libraries, the report also presents national and regional standards and federal legislation affecting school library media centers. Data from sample surveys are presented at the national, regional, and school levels, and by state. Full report is available at

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005311>